



**DeKalb County
FSA Office**
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Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 2011

County Office Staff

Eugene Keats
County Executive
Director
Kristy L. Gray, PT
Cindy Barker, PT
Robert Barton, Field

Charles Meissen
Farm Loan Manager

County Committee

James Carlson, Chair
John Burton, V. Chair
Harold Zimmerman
Ruth Owen, Advisor

County Committee
meets as announced
in advance

Visit our Website at:
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

CED Notes

It is with some sadness and regret that I bid farewell to the DeKalb County Farm Service Agency after almost 29 years here in the office in Maysville. After ten years in production agriculture and the registered cattle business, I came to this area in 1983 as a "change in direction" in life, in some ways necessitated by the economic downturn in the late 1970's, early 1980's. Even after coming here, I have seen the worst of times and the best of times. I am convinced that wherever you go in the rural areas of this great country, the people are very much the same, and I have been privileged to have met some of the very best in my career. It has indeed been gratifying to serve the producers in DeKalb County and carry out the various programs legislated by Congress over the years. One of the most difficult aspects of agriculture in the last half century is dealing with the changes. Technology is moving so fast, not only on the production side with ever-increasing yields and new methods, but on the service side also. We started with typewriters and forms with carbon paper, measuring fields with planimeters and crossed eyes (some of you remember further than that). Now we have high tech computers which can process infinite amounts of information in seconds. We have only seen the beginning. Our agency will change in the way information is sent to you, and in the way programs are administered. In this day and age we have to do more with less. You have a great staff here at the Service Center. I hope that I leave the office in a condition as good as I found it, or better. I look forward to seeing all of you in other areas of life and the community. May every blessing in life come your way. Eugene

COUNTY COMMITTEE VOTING BEGINS

Ballots for this year's county committee election were mailed to eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2011. Voters must complete their ballots and return them to the Farm Service Agency county office by the close of business on Dec. 5, 2011. If mailed, ballots must be postmarked by midnight Dec. 5, 2011. If your operation is located in a local administrative area (LAA) III that is having an election this year and you did not receive a ballot, contact your local FSA office. The election ballots will be counted **December 9 at 10:00 a.m.** at the county office.

Voter Requirements:

Persons meeting requirements in 1 or 2, plus 3, below, is eligible to vote:

1. Be of legal voting age and have an interest in a farm or ranch as any of the following:
 - An individual
 - The authorized representative of an entity
 - Both spouses when property is owned jointly
 - Spouses in community property states.
2. Is not of legal voting age, but supervises and

conducts the farming operations on an entire farm.

3. Participates or cooperates in any FSA program that is provided by law.

LAA III consists of the townships of Grand River, Colfax, and Washington.

Discrimination Prohibited:

No person shall be denied the right to vote because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to the FSA office on November 30, 1:00-4:00 p.m. for an open house to mark the retirement of CED Eugene Keats. He will be leaving the office after almost 29 years of service, and would like to have everyone stop by to visit one more time.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012, and will end June 1, 2012. Here are some IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- All producers planting on **DCP base** acres must be identified on the DCP/ACRE contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP/ACRE payment for the farm.
- Changes on the farm after enrolling June 1st in DCP/ACRE **must** be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- o Ownership changes

- o Producer changes (Individuals and Entities)

Change in crop shares arrangements

Note: Changes cannot be made after Sept. 30, 2012.

SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE)

The sign-up for 2010 losses began **Nov. 14, 2011**, and will end **June 1, 2012**.

The Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program (SURE) provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters that incurred in the crop year 2010. SURE is available to eligible producers on:

Farms in counties with Secretarial disaster declarations, including contiguous counties, that have incurred crop production or quality losses, or both, and includes all crops grown by a producer nationwide, **except** grazed crops. DeKalb County is eligible. The county office will use information from insurance companies to determine eligibility for payment if the producer meets the loss threshold, which is 10% for a crop.

FSA SIGNATURE POLICY

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. The following are FSA signature guidelines:

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and CCC programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the county office

Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, or other similar entities.

NEW AGI FORM FOR 2012

On September 28, 2011, FSA started using CCC-931 "Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information" for all 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 programs that are subject to AGI compliance. FSA will no longer accept CCC-926, CCC-927, or CCC-928 for any program. The new form is a combination of the Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information forms previously used by FSA.

Form CCC-931 is available at your local FSA office or online at <http://intranet.fsa.usda.gov>. Producers can print and mail the form to their local FSA office. FSA employees will review the form for accuracy before forwarding it to the IRS. If CCC-931 is incomplete, the producer will be notified and corrections will be completed prior to FSA forwarding it to the IRS. Producers with FSA-211, "Power of Attorneys" will not be allowed to use the FSA-211 to complete the CCC-931.

Producers who failed to file these forms before Sept. 2011 will receive a notice from the National Office stating that the producer is ineligible for 2010 and/or 2011 payments.

Without these forms on file, eligible producers will not receive USDA program payments. For more information please contact your local FSA office.

MARKETING ASSISTANCE LOANS

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available to producers who share in the risk of producing a crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity.


Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. For commodities to be eligible they must have been produced by an eligible producer, be in existence and in a storable condition and be merchantable for food, feed or other uses as determined by CCC. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan.

Loan rates are corn, \$1.91; soybeans \$4.97. Loans are nine month, non-recourse, certified or measured.



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ELECTRONIC SERVICES AVAILABLE

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and receive approval and payment by direct deposit within 48 hours.



To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information.

To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at:

<http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMER & RANCHERS

FSA assists beginning farmers and ranchers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or

guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in any loan assessment and borrower training program in production and/or financial management required by the Agency
- Does not own farm acreage greater than 30 % of the median size farm in the county.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided targeted funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

FARM RECONSTITUTIONS

When changes in farm ownership or operation take place, a farm *reconstitution* is necessary. The reconstitution — or recon — is the process of combining or dividing farms or tracts of land based on the farming operation.

The following are the different methods used when doing a farm recon. Remember, to be effective for the current year, recons must be requested by Aug. 1 for farms enrolled in the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program.

Estate Method — the division of bases, allotments and quotas for a parent farm among heirs in settling an estate;

Designation of Landowner Method — may be used when (1) part of a farm is sold or ownership is transferred; (2) an entire farm is sold to two or more persons; (3) farm ownership is transferred to two or more persons; (4) part of a tract is sold or ownership is transferred; (5) a tract is sold to two or more persons; or (6) tract ownership is transferred to two or more persons. In order to use this method the land sold must have been owned for at least three years, or a waiver granted, and the buyer and seller must sign a Memorandum of Understanding;

DCP Cropland Method — the division of bases in the same proportion that the DCP cropland for each resulting tract relates to the DCP cropland on the parent tract;

- **Default Method** — the division of bases for a parent farm with each tract maintaining the bases attributed to the tract level when the reconstitution is initiated in the system.

If DCP direct payments have already been issued on a particular farm, the reconstitution will be effective for the next year, unless the payments are refunded.

FSA eAlerts—Electronic Info

Missouri FSA introduces FSA eAlerts—a new way to receive FSA program reminders via e-mail or text. You can sign up for eAlerts at your County Office. You can opt out of receiving FSA eAlerts at any time. The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a paperless operation. Producers are asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and electronic reminders instead of a hard copy through the mail. FSA, like many other organizations, is trying to work smarter and be more efficient.

CRP NOTES

Many CRP contracts expire in 2012. A signup has not been announced, but is expected in early 2012. Producers must be aware that all trees, brush, and gullies must be eliminated by the end of the signup for the land to be eligible to re-enroll. The average rental rate for the county is now \$112. per acre. The rental rate is based on the weighted average of the rental rates of the three predominant soils on the proposed acreage. There will likely be an environmental benefit index system on enrollment where you can choose what kind of cover you are willing to establish to help your chances of acceptance. Watch for a letter informing you that your contract is expiring and when the signup is to be held.

Dates to Remember	
November 24	Office Closed — Thanksgiving Day
December 9	Public Count of Election Ballots at 10:00 a.m. at the county office
December 26	Office Closed — Christmas
January 2	Office Closed — New Years
January 16	Office Closed — Presidents Day
March 15	Last date to purchase NAP forage insurance or change crop insurance
Continuous	Conservation Reserve Continuous
Continuous	Farm Facility Loans

Selected Interest Rates for December 2011	
Farm Operating Loans Direct	1.5%
Farm Ownership Loans	3.375%
Farm Ownership Loans; Direct Down Payment; Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Farm Storage Facility Loans; 7 Year	1.5%
Commodity Loans, 1996 to Present	1.125%

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).